

Rev. A. A. Phelps

B. Be kind enough to preserve this for a short time —

were said about the city in regard to Mr. Fitch - because his Bills were not paid -

On reading Mr. Finnings sermon from the text owe no man any thing - I felt it was not right for our church to leave this debt unpaid any longer - I accordingly wrote a letter to Bro. Graham on the subject and he called to see me - He felt as I did about it - and after some hesitation consented to give me his note payable in 4 mos for 150 dolls - He wanted to know if the church would consider this as a payment of his apportionment - I told him I did not know - they had ~~been~~ apportioned him 75 dolls a year - it was for him to say whether he would pay it or not and if he did pay it, on what conditions - This was a debt which ought to be paid or it would be a scandal upon the whole church - and it was plain nothing would be done about it unless Mr. Fitch's particular friends would come forward and loan the money - - - Very soon after receiving the note I settled all Mr. Fitch's Bills and sent them to him receipted -

Besides this note I have out^d as a loan to the church 10 dolls from Bro Cutler 3 dolls from Bro ^{mopas} Cambell and 5 dolls from Bro Allen -

When the church pays me the balance due Mr. Fitch I can pay back these loans and the brethren can do what they please with the money -

I now repeat that as far from feeling that I have done wrong in any particular in this matter - I think not only Mr. Fitch but the church are bound to be grateful for what I have done - and just in proportion to the ^{extent} ~~amount~~ of christian feelings it will be so - - I have something of a cold and shall not be out this evening - Yours very truly John Gulliver

nearly enough to make up the deficiency - and then went back again and told him I would undertake to settle his bills for him and he would then be at liberty to commence his labors at Newark without any ^{farther} delay - And as I was going to N. York the next day I persuaded them to go with me. - While on board the Steam Boat he gave me an order on the Treasurer for the money which was due him by a vote of the church passed about the time of the meeting of the council -

On my return I sent the order to Mr Porter and he paid 50 dolls upon it -

I sent again and he refused to pay any more on it - I called on him to know the reason and he said Dea Sears had forbid his paying me any more -

Bro. Cambell, ^{says} I then brot up the matter before the church at two different times - for the purpose of getting the church to pass a vote directing the Treasurer to pay the order - - - "but they wouldn't do it" -

After a while I drew up a subscription paper for the purpose of getting the brethren to make a loan to the church to pay off the debt - and a donation to make up ~~the~~ what he owed beyond his salary -

I made but little progress in that, and soon gave it up in despair - and nothing more was done untill about 4 months ago - In the mean time Mr. Fitch's creditors were ~~frequently~~ ^{on} calling ^{one} for their money, & ^{some} of them wrote to him - I frequently heard of many hard things which

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Dea. John Gulliver
Boston Jan'y. 30th 1840

Rev. Mr. Phelps

Dear Sir

In conversation with you last evening I thought there was something wrong in the course I had taken in regard ^{to the matter of Mr Fitch} but it arose from my not having examined the matter with sufficient care —

After mature reflection I am prepared to say that so far from condemning the course I have taken I can look back upon ^{it} with as much unmingled satisfaction as upon any other transaction of my life —

On no occasion have I been in the exercise of purer ~~human~~ ^{of benevolence} feelings, and a desire to act the part of a peace-maker — What little sacrifice I have made in this case has been ~~very~~ richly rewarded by the approbation of my own conscience — and by such warm ~~shorted~~ and often repeated expressions of gratitude from Mr & Mrs Fitch as I never received before from any individual —

My agency in the business commenced the evening before Mr. Fitch left the city — He had made his calculations to leave as soon as he had paid up his bills — But the Treasurer refused to pay him — On adding up his bills he found if he had paid him — he would ~~be~~ still be short ~~more~~ a hundred dollars — He and Mrs F were in the greatest agitation — After suggesting one or two expedients — I went out and persuaded a few of his friends to subscribe

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